

August 28, 2020

## ***Director Garcia Appoints New Superintendent at the Boys State Training School***

(Des Moines, Iowa) – The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) announced the appointment of a key leadership position. The Department conducted a broad search and extensive interview process, which included DHS leadership, the Office of the Attorney General, and numerous Boys State Training School (BSTS) team members, including front-line staff. The interview committee unanimously selected the top candidate.

DHS is proud to announce Wendy Leiker as the new BSTS superintendent. Wendy earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Washburn University and has completed most of her graduate work towards her master's degree in justice services. She brings over 17 years of juvenile justice experience with her, rising from the ranks as a juvenile correctional officer. Wendy has worked multiple shifts and in multiple roles ranging from a second shift supervisor and a disciplinary hearing officer, as well as serving in facility leadership roles.

Wendy is departing her role as the superintendent at the sole juvenile correctional facility in Kansas, the Kansas Juvenile Correctional Complex (KJCC). She has previously led the Larned Juvenile Correctional Facility (LJCF) and also served as the assistant superintendent at Larned State Hospital in Kansas for extended periods throughout her career. She is known for her work ethic and presence as a hands-on leader. She begins this new role on September 21, 2020.

"This is such critical time for the facility, which demands strong leadership to meet the unique needs of the youth we serve," said Director Garcia. "I'm tremendously excited about the passion and commitment to juvenile justice that Wendy brings to the agency. She has the proven experience to lead BSTS into the next chapter."

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